

Performance Readiness Checklist

Do I know it?

(Intention)

- Can I sing/hum it, out loud or in my head?
(Have I listened to it enough to internalize it?)
- Do I understand the patterns?
(Key relationships, scales, arpeggios, sequences, form)
- Do I know the context?
(Is it a dance? a song? part of a larger piece?)
- Do I know the composer?

Can I play it?

(Execution)

- Does it feel easy?
(balanced posture, little tension, efficient hand position)
- Is the tone clear?
(with variation of colour, volume, and vibrato when appropriate)
- Are all the notes correct?
- Is the pulse steady?
(with appropriate variation on fermata, rit, etc.)
- Is the rhythm accurate?
(are subdivisions steady & precise?)
- Am I using all the expressive elements I need to convey the mood of the piece?
 - Articulation
(legato, staccato, slur, etc.)
 - One phrase in one breath
(motion in melodic line, phrase shaping)
 - Phrase endings are graceful
(tapered endings, sustained ending notes without going flat)
 - Dynamics
 - Appropriate style
(tempo, ornaments, mood, etc.)
 - Am I doing all these things consistently?
- Can I play with accompaniment?
- Can I keep going if I make an error?
- Do I sound confident?
(no hesitations)
- Do I remember to bow correctly at the end?

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